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ARMY ARCHERD

JUST FOR VARIETY

GOOD MORNING: On the eve of tomorrow's Oscar nomination announcements, many of the probable nominees are wending their way back to town. Such as Oliver Stone. The WGA and DGA nominee is back from 21 days of p.a.'s in 10 countries—France, Germany, England, Sweden, Italy, Spain, Brazil, Argentina, Chile, Mexico—with "JFK" producer Alex Ho and WB's Joe Hyams. And Stone's next off to Ireland, the Netherlands and the Far East—plus D.C. "I'm wiped out," said Stone, but he will not lessen his battle to get all files open on the Kennedy assassination. He said the film was well received in all foreign dates. "Kennedy is very popular everywhere—he's still considered the last liberal president." As for press, Stone says, "I've been libeled (in some op-ed pages)—and I have to defend myself." And commenting on political brickbats vs. the film, he reminds, "What's important is that it is a well-made movie, well acted, well edited, with wonderful music—all of this shunted aside into political debate. I think it's ground-making filmmaking" ... Stone may have some "ground-making" TV in store for ABC—and for the web's Robert Iger, who KO'd Steven Bochco's plans for adult small-screen fare. He may have another project (a Stone six-hour mini) to peruse with caution. Stone tells us, "I have a wild idea. It's on the edges of new TV. TV today is a bore, isn't it?" ... Also returning in time for nomination announcements is Warren Beatty, who winged to Japan with Annette Bening and baby Kathlyn—on a fast four-day round trip to Tokyo for "Bugsy." And they're skedded to leave again this week for N.Y. (the National Board of Review award) and on to Paris p.a.s ... WGA "Bugsy" nominee James Toback expects to give Beatty his new (comedy) script this week before Toback heads to Berlin and London for the pic.

THE KENNEDY INAUGURAL BALL OF 1960—which featured talent including Frank Sinatra, Ella Fitzgerald, Leonard Bernstein, Laurence Olivier, Fredric March, Nat King Cole, Gene Kelly, Alan King, Jimmy Durante, Helen Traubel, Tony Curtis, Janet Leigh, Louis Prima, Keely Smith, etc.—is being readied by Peter Lawford's widow, Patricia Seaton L., for excerpts on Boston's WGBH. And a full special will be readied with producer Bill Asher. He directed the ball taping—with producer Sinatra—for Joe Kennedy. It's never been seen, except in small newsreel clips. Patricia was willed the (92 cans of) film by Lawford, and it's been in a vault all this time. Eventually, she and Asher want it to go to the Kennedy library. Patricia and Daniel K. Stewart, retired 20-year LAPD homicide detective, now a private investigator, are engaged to wed ... Also announcing their upcoming marriage are agent Nancy Rainford (of the Irv Schecter percentery) and Tim Ryan, formerly a "China Beach" regular, now co-starring in "The Runestone" ... And set to wed are Shari Markson, VP of Freeman, Sutton, Michaels Saltzman, and producer Paul Kaufman ... Footage of the frightening flood rescues by Ventura paramedics will be featured in the April 11 bow of "Code 3," Barbour/Langley's new Fox series. B/L's "Cops" celebrated its 100th seg over the weekend.